



SANTA
CLARA
UNIFIED
SCHOOL
DISTRICT

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STANLEY ROSE III, Ed.D.
SUPERINTENDENT

January 13, 2014



Laurel Prevetti, City of San Jose Planning Department and
Joe Horwedel, City of San Jose Planning Department
200 E. Santa Clara Street
Tower, 3rd Floor
San Jose, CA 95113

RE: Project File PD13-039

Dear Joe and Laurel:

Last year, then Superintendent Bobbi Plough, Ed.D., wrote to your department as representing the City of San Jose to speak about the safety concerns of placing a warehouse and distribution center nearby one of the Santa Clara Unified School District's elementary school, George Mayne Elementary School.

My letter adds my concerns to hers in urging the City to consider the environmental consequences of placing such an entity very nearby Mayne School. I would like to raise potential issues about which I believe the City of San Jose should be concerned in its consideration of this project:

1. **Compatible Use:** It is possible that the toxic substances that would be located on the property after the construction of a warehouse and distribution center would be prohibitive around schools. If so, then the construction of a warehouse and distribution center could not occur, or, if it did occur, the school would have to be moved. The rules for compatible use could prohibit the two entities from being in such close proximity to one another.
2. **Traffic:** The infusion of several dozen, or even hundreds, of large trucks—and the appurtenant car traffic that would accompany a several hundred thousand square-foot warehouse and distribution facility—cannot help but pose a serious threat to child safety as students move to and from school each day, not only before and after school, but throughout the school day. I assure you that even one death or debilitating injury caused by introducing this level of traffic would be unacceptable to all, including the citizens of Alviso and agencies that serve the Alviso community.
3. **Noise:** A healthy learning environment is supported by low levels of ambient noise so that students may participate actively in the learning process. That is not always possible in a large urban setting. The Alviso community is not a large urban community, and the change in noise levels created by trucks and other traffic could place an unnecessary burden on teaching and learning.

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"The mission of Santa Clara Unified School District is to prepare students of all ages and abilities to succeed in an ever-changing world."

4. Pollution: In addition to the noise pollution and toxic substance pollution a warehouse and distribution center could cause, the pollution of the air through the introduction of toxic air particulates could impact the health of both young and old alike.

For all the above reasons, please consider carefully the decision to place a large warehouse and distribution center near George Mayne Elementary School. The above-mentioned considerations call for a careful review before making any such potentially dangerous decision. Also, please fully involve the community by making all attempts to gather their input and consider their wishes before making any final decision.

Finally, if the decision has been made, and then please do all possible to mitigate this decision:

1. Consider installing significant lighting enhancements on the streets and, in particular, around the George Mayne campus.
2. Add noise mitigations through erection of walls and other noise mitigation strategies.
3. Add street traffic lighting and significant crosswalk upgrades around George Mayne School to support the walking and bike-riding community.
4. Add Crossing Guards as needed to support safe access to school.

Please consider carefully the course you are about to take. Santa Clara Unified School District and the City of San Jose have enjoyed an excellent partnership over the years. Let us work together now to serve our community in the best possible manner.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Stanley Rose III, Ed.D.", written in a cursive style.

Stanley Rose III, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Copy: Chuck Reed, Mayor, City of San Jose
Kansen Chu, Councilmember, City of San Jose
Dave Cortese, Supervisor, Santa Clara County